

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: NOZOE, Mari et al.

SERIAL NO. : Division (5) of 09/450,856

FILED : Herewith

FOR : INSPECTION METHOD, APPARATUS AND SYSTEM FOR  
CIRCUIT PATTERN

ART UNIT : 2877 (Expected)

EXAMINER : Unassigned

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
FOR PATENTS  
Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application the Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Before the first line on page 1, insert the following:

--This application is a division of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/450,856 filed November 29, 1999, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.--

**Cross-Reference to Related Applications**

-- This Application relates to:

(1) U.S. Application Serial No. 09/258,461, filed February 26, 1999, titled "Convergent Charged Particle Beam Apparatus and Inspection Method Using Same",